



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$150,000 Settlement Reached with Halaco Engineering

Los Angeles --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced a \$150,000 settlement with Halaco Engineering (Halaco), a metal recycling facility located at 6200 Perkins Road in Oxnard. DTSC in conjunction with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office sued Halaco for violations of the state's hazardous waste control laws.

Under terms of the Stipulation and Final Judgment (Judgment), signed on April 29, 2004, by the Superior Court of Ventura County, Halaco will pay \$49,000 as civil penalties and \$26,000 as reimbursement of costs incurred to DTSC. Halaco will also pay \$40,000 in civil penalties to the County of Ventura, \$30,000 to the Consumer and Environmental Fraud Enforcement/Training Fund of the Office of the Ventura County District Attorney, and \$5,000 to the Oxnard Fire Department's CUPA Division. A copy of the Judgment formalizing the settlement is available at the DTSC Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

"This settlement demonstrates DTSC's commitment to protect California's environment by working with local prosecutors to vigorously enforce hazardous waste laws and bring facilities back into compliance," said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director.

The civil complaint filed by DTSC and the Ventura County District Attorney alleged that Halaco illegally disposed of used oil by burning it in their smelting furnace or pouring it over scrap metal and dross which was washed in large rotary washers that discharged effluent into on-site settling ponds. The complaint also alleged that Halaco failed to follow other used oil management requirements.

All payments are subject to the approval of the Federal Bankruptcy Court as Halaco is in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.